

*Ravin*

Bacteriology

October 8, 1957

Dear Arhold:

I was sorry, on your account, to hear that Ken and Gus were leaving Rochester. Give both of them my best wishes on theirs.

I don't have too many thoughts about recent graduates for your positions, with one exception: Alan Richter who should be coming out next summer. He has been working with me on *E. coli* genetics, and he certainly has a brilliant mind. He has also been working with Ch. Heidelberger on the incorporation of uracil analogues into nucleic acids. My main reservation about him is a certain social immaturity, but this seems a fairly common finding among the people of his interests and capabilities, and I would think you'd want to look at him. He has also had some experience in plant genetics (e.g. a paper with Singletoh on the kinetics of X-ray 'mutations' in carnations). If his sense of perspective matched his mental agility I'd have no hesitation about him; perhaps I'm being too critical. At any rate, I would urge you to look at him yourself. I don't have the documents at hand to give you further information. He has deposited a M.A. thesis at the University Library here which will give you a fair idea of his research orientation.

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At an intermediate level, I would mention that Norton Zinder (whom you know too well to need much comment from me) would probably like to get to academic life when possible. There is also a chap called Dave Skaar, who's now at Montana State College, not quite as effective a research worker as Norton, but much more promising as a teacher with broad biological background (ornithology; a Ph D on *Paramecium* with Sonneborn; worked with me on *E. coli* immunogenetics and on F --see a recent paper in PNAS-- and more recently at CSH with Demerec group: a nice job, parallel to Jacob, and independent of it, on interrupted mating in *coli*, and other work on a mutability modifier.)

You also know Tom Nelson, who's had a hard time of it, but has a lot of talent.

You might also think about Ralph Lewin (currently at Wodds Hole)-- a first class algologist with very strong genetics orientation, and a stimulating lecturer